WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Restructuring Plan for State Trading Corporation

306. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) having come out of the shadow of disinvestments, whether the State Trading Corporation is chalking out any restructuring plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether STC is thinking of strengthening its overseas markets which it has lost since its offices closed abroad;

(d) whether the STC is carrying out any study on the restructuring and opening up of new offices abroad, external trade, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Restructuring is an ongoing process taking into account the changes in the factors relating to composition and direction of trade.

(c) STC maintains its prominent presence in the international market through long-term relationship with trading partners, and regular interaction with business associates, trade associations, commodity exchanges etc. through use of modern technology.

(d) STC has no plans to open overseas offices in the immediate future.

(e) Does not arise.

Indo-Pak JETCO meeting

307. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) place recently in London;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations and proposals that emerged out of the meeting.

(c) whether Government have any proposals to set up similar committees with any other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir. The India UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee met at London.

(b) The JETCO meeting deliberations included ways and means of enhancement of bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Business led working groups on Agribusiness, Healthcare, High technology and Infrastructure, also held their meetings.

(c) and (d) The Government has in place various institutional arrangements including Joint Commissions/Committees with its trading partners to increase and diversify trade and economic relations on a mutually beneficial and balanced basis. Proposals to set up such mechanisms are taken up from time to time when the need is mutually recognized.

Pending SEZ proposals from private sector

308. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals from private sector for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been pending with Government for long;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals pending as on December, 31, 2005 and since when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The proposals for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) received upto 15.11.2005 by the Central Government were considered in the Board of Approval in the meeting held on 25.11.2005 and cleared as per the norms. Subsequently, 33 proposals for setting up SEZs were received upto 31st December, 2005 and the details of these proposals are as under:—